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Chief, Language and Area School

26 December 1956

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Chief, Plans and Policy Staff

Language Development Program

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1. At its second meeting on 21 December 1956, the Committee on Language Development concluded that the group of languages for award purposes, as contained in your informal proposal, would result in certain inequalities to the individual in view of the relative difficulties of the languages in some cases and to the Agency in others, since the criterion of need by the Agency would be difficult to apply.

2. The Committee has taken note of the alphabetical checklist of major languages contained on Forms DS-1134 and DS-1134a, dated 21 August 1956. These forms, subjects: "Self-Appraisal of Language Proficiency" and "Self-Appraisal of Interpreting and Translating Proficiency", are currently in use by the Department of State. The Committee would like your recommendations on each of the 87 languages listed as to which, of how many Groups A, B, C, D, etc., each language should be placed in considering, first, the relative difficulty of the language and, second, your general estimate of the Agency's need for numbers of people with proficiency in the language. The Committee feels that the interaction of these two factors might easily place a relatively simple language in a language group containing a higher awardable proficiency than would normally be the case if only the factor of relative difficulty were considered. For example, Hungarian, which now falls in Group A, could conceivably be placed in Group B or Group C temporarily considering the fact of Agency need and the small number of people available who have useable proficiency in it.

3. From this viewpoint, will you kindly provide your rating of these 87 languages along side each language on the checklist.


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SUBJECT: Language Development Program

I would appreciate receiving this information so that I can use it at a meeting beginning 0900 on 7 January 1957.


**Chairman, Committee on
Language Development**

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Enclosures:

- 1. Minutes of the first meeting of the Language Development Committee**
- 2. Form DS-1134**
- 3. Form DS-1134a**

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